bring about peace in the Indian Subcontinent in the context of N-tests by India and Pakistan in May, 1998;

(b) if so, what specific observations and recommendations were made therein; and

(c) what was Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Foreign Minister of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, P-5, in their meeting in Geneva, June, 1998 adopted a Joint Communique which "condemned" the tests carried out by India and Pakistan, expressed their "deep concern about the danger to peace and stability in the region" and "pledged to cooperate closely" in order to prevent an arms race in the sub-continent, "bolster the non-proliferation regime and to encourage reconciliation and peaceful resolution of differences between India and Pakistan". They called upon India and Pakistan to adhere to the CTBT immediately and unconditonally and said that their goal continues to be adherence by all countries to the NPT as it stands, without any modification. They said that they would "actively encourage" India and Pakistan "to find mutually acceptable solution, through direct dialogue that address the root causes of tension, including Kashmir and to try to build confidence rather than seek confronation".

(c) The Government issued a statement pointing out that India enjoys a consistent record as a responsible member of the international community and a pioneer and leading participant in the movement towards global nuclear disarmament. India has made consistent efforts aimed towards building confidence and promoting peace and stability in our region. In the wake of the nuclear tests, Government have also taken various initiatives with a view to addressing concerns expressed subsequent to the tests. India expects a positive reponse to the various initiatives it has announced so that peace and stability are maintained in the sub-continent. The statement also underlined that one of the most serious threats to our security has arisen because of the non-observance of the obligations that the Permanent five have undertaken under the NPT.

**Pakistan's Announcement of Unilateral Moratorium on Nuclear Test**

3284. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan announced on June 11, 1998, a unilateral moratorium on testing, adding that it was ready to reach a "no-nuclear test" agreement with India and making a formal offer for a new round of peace talks; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On June 12, Government invited an official delegation led by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to visit New Delhi on June 22, 1998 to resume the Foreign Secretary-level talks on the basis of the January 1998 proposals made by us to Pakistan.

**Sino-US Nexus**

3285. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government see a Sino-US nexus for ensuring that China plays a major role with US backing in resolving the bilateral issues and differences between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, what circumstances and facts have led Government to this conclusion, and what moves have so far been made by US, China and Pakistan in that direction; and